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National Consumer Protection Week: Top 5 Scams

Scam # 5: Facebook Scams

Las Vegas – Facebook is a great way to connect with friends, relatives and colleagues around the world. However, scammers are always looking for new ways to separate you from your hard-earned dollar, and they have taken advantage of the popularity of Facebook to do just that.

Facebook scammers use a technique called “click-jacking” in which they trick unsuspecting web users into providing confidential information or allowing the takeover of their computer system by visiting a phony website.

Users are drawn in by posts with bold headlines like “RIP!” and “Breaking News!” that report the death of a famous celebrity or something similar. Clicking on the links in the post take users to fake web pages that have been cloned to look like familiar sites such as YouTube. Sometimes, users are asked to complete a survey before proceeding. The survey asks for personal information that scammers may then use to hack accounts or steal identities. Other times, the links install malware on the user’s computer. Malware is malicious software that can record users’ keystrokes or track the websites they visit.

What to do if you’ve clicked:

- Check your security settings and delete access for applications you didn’t sign up for.
 - Review your Facebook posts to see if the links have sent out any spam posts to your friends. Delete them.
 - Run your antivirus software to make sure your system hasn’t been infected.
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About National Consumer Protection Week

National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) is a coordinated campaign that encourages consumers nationwide to take full advantage of their consumer rights and make better-informed decisions. For more information, visit <http://www.ncpw.gov/>.

About the Fight Fraud Taskforce and Website

The statewide Fight Fraud Taskforce includes members from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies, the I.R.S., the Department of Justice, the Nevada Attorney General and its Bureau of Consumer Protection, the Secretary of State, the Better Business Bureau in Las Vegas and Reno, the Department of Business & Industry, the Clark County Recorder, the P.U.C., the Division of Mortgage Lending, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Federal Trade Commission, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, and experts from the private sector among others. The group acts as a clearinghouse for fraud information and strives to educate the public on how to avoid the latest scams. Visit <http://fightfraud.nv.gov> for more information.

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